



## **PORTAGE LAKES KIWANIS COMMUNICATOR**

May 25, 2025



Club elections were held at the Civic Center on Wednesday, May 14, 2025. The following will take office on October 1, 2025 through September 30, 2026:

### **Officers:**

**President - Jon Vielhaber**  
**Vice President - Stanley Vaughan**  
**Secretary - Cathy Dietz**  
**Treasurer - Dana Roderick**  
**Past President - Dale Dietz**

### **Board of Directors:**

**Alfred Grzeschik, re-elected term until 2028**  
**John Hercules, re-elected term until 2028**  
**Judy Thompson, re-elected term until 2028**  
**Juanita Gehm, term until 2027**  
**Rosanne Edwardson, term until 2027**  
**Robert Kansa, term until 2027**  
**Kelley Nagy, term until 2026**  
**Bob Fowler, term until 2026**  
**Anthony Ponikvar, term until 2026**



**We will again have a Kiwanis float in the New Franklin Memorial Day parade on Monday May 26th. The parade route runs from Grace Bible Church on Manchester Road to the Manchester Cemetery on Nimisila Road, and steps off at 10:00 am. If you are in the parade, please arrive at Grace Church between 8:30 am and 9:00 am. There is a free pancake breakfast at Grace Church before the parade. The team has the float decorated and ready to go. Thank you to Steve Hess who is the chair of this event for planning and coordinating the Memorial Day Parade float and to all of the volunteers that will be riding on the float.**

## **SCOTT SHOOKMAN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**

**Every year our club offers four \$1,500 scholarships; two for Manchester seniors and two for Coventry seniors. The recipients are chosen based on academics, extra-curricular activities, community service, service to their home school, and financial need. All of the applicants are highly qualified so it is always a tough decision to choose just two winners from each school. President Dietz has presented the scholarships at the Senior Awards night at both schools. The two Coventry recipients are Cooper Carmichael and Sabrina Wei, and the two Manchester recipients are Lacy Hall and Jack Benoit. Our annual Scholarship Banquet will be held at the Civic Center this Wednesday, May 28th where we will meet and honor the recipients. Chefs Al Grzeschik and Jon Vielhaber will be preparing the meal for us. By attending you will be supporting the scholarship program, the scholarship recipients, and the Shookman family. The scholarship committee consists of: Sam Reynolds, chair, Becky Shookman, Gene Cole, and Cathy Dietz.**



**The Coventry Parks Advisory Committee will host 'Food Truck Mondays' one Monday each month this summer at the Coventry Clock Tower. There will be great food and fun on June 9th, July 14th, and August 11th from 5 to 8pm. There will be tables set up to sit down and eat. Our club will set up an 'information' table on these three dates to let the Portage Lakes community know what our club is up to. Save these dates if you will be able to come down and help out.**



**Please continue to bring in food for our Blessings in a Backpack program. We collect non perishable food items for our local school districts to help children that rely on school breakfast and lunches. The food will be sent home with kids over weekends and holiday breaks to make sure they have something to eat; many families are struggling. Some suggestions would be single serving macaroni and cheese, fruit cups, crackers, peanut butter, or any food item with an easy pop top. When you are out shopping please consider adding a few items to your cart and dropping them off at the Civic Center. There are receptacles outside the Civic Center so you can drop your donation off any time or you can bring them in any Wednesday from 6:00 to 8:00 pm.**



## **FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITY**

**Our club has been offered the chance to sell 50/50 raffle tickets to the racing fans at the Norton Raceway Park (formerly Barberton Speedway) on Saturday, May 31st. Thanks to the members that have volunteered to sell the tickets, we could still use a few more! We will retain half of the money collected with the other half going to the ticket winner. We will hope for perfect weather and a big crowd that night. Raffle ticket sellers will not be required to pay for admittance.**



## **OHIO STATE FOOTBALL TICKET RAFFLE**

**Our club will again participate in the OSU Football Ticket Raffle fundraiser. We will sell raffle tickets for \$5.00 each, our club will keep \$3.00 for every ticket sold and the other \$2.00 will be sent back to the Columbus Kiwanis Foundation. The winner will receive 2 tickets to all seven OSU home football games. The seats are in Section 22C, Row 26 which is around the 45 yard-line. Steve Hess will be our Club Chair for this fundraiser. The drawing for the winner will be held on Monday, August 18, 2025. This is a simple way to earn a few extra dollars for our club. Last year our own Stanley Vaughan sold the winning ticket! Tickets are available now; please see Steve Hess to get a batch to sell.**

# CARNIVAL

**The Nolley Elementary School 'FUN FAIR' will be held on Friday, May 30th from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm. The event offers carnival games, food, and fun for the community. The PTA has asked our club for assistance. If you have signed up to volunteer that night please arrive at Nolley School by 4:45 pm. You can work an hour or the entire event! The night of the event stop at the volunteer table in the front lobby to check in and get your assignment.**



**On Wednesday May 21st, an induction ceremony was held at the Civic Center for new member Barry Shaffer. Barry's sponsor is Bob Fowler and the ceremony was led by Steve Hess. Barry resides in New Franklin and is the owner of Manchester Firearms. We look forward to working with Barry! Please welcome him to our Kiwanis Family.**







Congratulations to member Dana Roderick on the arrival of a new grandbaby. Braxton Michael Zito arrived on May 9th weighing in at 9 lbs 5 ounces. The proud parents are Jonathan and Savannah. Congratulations to all.

**A FREE PLX Community Tradition!**

## Buckeye MartinFest



**DATE: June 29, 2025 ~ 1:00p- 4:00p**

Learn all about what makes Purple Martins so special and why they are important to our Portage Lakes community!

- \* See the babies in their nest
- \* Learn how to feed Purple Martins
- \* Hold and see the birds being banded
- \* Get information on Nimisila Twilight Boat Rides
- \* Visit Purple Martin info booths, play games, make crafts & more!
- \* **Food Vendors, Raffle, Prizes!**



**LOCATION:**  
**North Reservoir Boat Ramp**  
**803 State Mill Road**  
**Coventry, OH 44319**  
**1:00p- 4:00p**



For more information, please contact: **Kay Lukac @ 330-283-5771**  
[Info@PortageLakesPurpleMartins.com](mailto:Info@PortageLakesPurpleMartins.com) ~ visit [PortageLakesPurpleMartins.com](http://PortageLakesPurpleMartins.com)



# Community Events coming up:

Friday, May 30th will be the Nolley Elementary School Fun Fair. This is a fun event for children, students, and families in New Franklin. Our club will be helping out with kitchen duty and serving food. Save the date if you can volunteer that night.

The Portage Lakes Purple Martin Association will hold their annual Martifest on Sunday, June 29th at the State Mill Boat ramp. Please let Kay know if you will be able to help.

The Portage Lakes Fireworks Association will hold their annual fireworks celebration on Saturday July 5, 2025 with a magical display over the Portage Lakes.

The Dragon Dream Team will hold their annual Dragon's on the Lake Boat Festival at the Portage Lakes State Park on Saturday July 19th. This is an all day event that more than 1,500 people will attend and will be a day of community, camaraderie, and competition. Our club will help out transporting people from the parking area down to the beach area.

## **BIRTHDAYS:**

05/01 Sam Reynolds

05/17 Chuck Seeley

05/31 Tom Burge

## **CLUB ANNIVERSARIES:**

Jim Davis - 34 years

Al Grzeschik - 29 years

Paul Schuckert - 23 years

Dale Dietz - 14 years

Dana Roderick - 14 years

Kevin Powell - 3 years

Carol Derry - 2 years

## **WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES:**

05/23 Melissa & Tim Millmier

**KIWANIS FAMILY NEWS:** Please keep our members and friends in special thought and prayer.

Judy Hunter

It is with sadness that we have lost another member. Donald Reilly passed away in Mesa Verde, Arizona on March 21, 2025. Don was a Past Club President, a Past Lt. Governor, and a 48 year Portage Lakes Kiwanis member. Please keep Don's wife Marie and his family in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

### **UPCOMING MEETINGS / CALENDAR OF EVENTS:**

- >May 26, New Franklin Memorial Day Parade
- >May 28, Scholarship Banquet at Civic Center, 6:30 pm
- >May 30, Nolley School Fun Fair, 5:00 to 8:00pm
- >May 31, Norton Raceway Park 50/50 fundraiser

### **A LITTLE FURTHER DOWN THE ROAD:**

- >June 4, Regular Meeting & Board Meeting
- >June 9, First Food Truck Frenzy at Clocktower
- >June 25, Regular Meeting & Board Meeting
- >June 29, Martinfest, State Mill Boat ramp
- >July 2, NO MEETING AT CC, Happy 4th of July!
- >July 5, Portage Lakes Fireworks
- >July 12, Pancake Breakfast at Civic Center
- >July 14, Second Food Truck Frenzy at Clocktower
- >July 19, Dragons on the Lake Festival
- >July 26, Pirate Day on the Lake, Portage Lakes State Park
- >July 30, Regular Meeting & Board Meeting
- >August 11, Third Food Truck Frenzy at Clocktower

**Kiwanis International Convention.** The annual convention will take place in Pittsburg Pennsylvania June 25th thru June 28th. There will be seminars to choose from including; Building Club Membership, service projects for your community, fundraising ideas, and much more. There will be guidance in becoming a skilled Kiwanis leader, and you will be able to connect with fellow Kiwanians from all over the world for this exciting event. One of the Key Note speakers will be Henry Winkler, AKA 'The Fonz'. If you have never attended an International Convention now is your chance since it is being held just two hours away in Pittsburg. If you need more information or would like to register please see Secretary Cathy. **Update: Henry Winkler will not be able to attend the convention and has been replaced with Key Note Speaker Martin Sheen.**

**Ohio District Convention.** This convention will be held in Warren, Ohio August 1st thru August 3rd, 2025. This will be a time for Kiwanis members to come together in fellowship, education, and to handle the business of the District which included electing leadership and voting on other matters. If you would need more information or would like to register please see Secretary Cathy.

**ALL ABOUT PLK...**Our club is currently meeting every Wednesday. You can join us at 6:30 pm for dinner, which is catered by Lukity's Restaurant, a full meal for just \$15.00, or you can attend any meeting which begins at 7:00 pm. We'd love to have you.

We meet at the Civic Center, located at 725 Portage Lakes Drive, Akron, OH 44319.  
Telephone number (330) 644-8967.

Our website is: [plkiwanis.org](http://plkiwanis.org) and please check out and like our Face book page, under Portage Lakes Kiwanis.

**KIWANIS MISSION STATEMENT - Kiwanis is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to improving the world one child and one community at a time.**

Published on the first and third week of the month, Cathy Dietz, Editor.